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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /050 W
----------077168 242011Z /66
R 241445Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL BREMEN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO US MISSION BERLIN 481
AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
SECSTATE WASHDC 2310

UNCLAS BREMEN 287

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: BREMEN NEWSPAPER STRIKE ENDS

REF: BREMEN 260

1. ON JUNE 24, THE TWO AND ONLY BREMEN NEWSPAPERS, "WESER KURIER" AND "BREMER NACHRICHTEN", OWNED BY HERMANN RUDOLF MEYER, REAPPEARED AFTER A THREE-WEEK SHUTDOWN. ACCORDING TO FIRST ESTIMATES, THE BASIS OF THE DISPUTE INVOLVING "VOLUNTARY" PAYMENTS OF ABOUT DM 60,000 LED TO A REVENUE LOSS OF OVER DM 4 MILLION.

2. THE WORKS COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT AGREED TO A COMPROMISE, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY THE STRIKERS BY A VOTE OF 175 TO 135. THE COMPROMISE AGREEMENT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDE THE MANAGEMENT'S "VOLUNTARY" WAGE AND SALARY PAYMENTS FROM THE COMPUTATION OF THE
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6.6 PERCENT INCREASE NEGOTIATED IN THE LAST BARGAINING ROUND. THUS THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE STOPPAGE WAS NOT ATTAINED. MEYER AGREED, HOWEVER, TO REVIEW JOINTLY WITH THE WORKS COUNCIL HIS EARLIER DECISIONS ON THE "VOLUNTARY" PAYMENTS AND TO DO SO ALSO IN THE FUTURE. HE FURTHERMORE AGREED TO PAY WAGES FOR THE FIRST STRIKE DAY AND RENOUNCED ANY "PUNISHMENT" OF THE STRIKERS.

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3. BUERGERMEISTER KOSCHNICK AND THE BREMEN BUERGERSCHAFT, WHO TRIED IN VAIN TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE PARTIES, WELCOMED THE END OF THE STOPPAGE. KOSCHNICK DECLARED THAT "THOUGHT HAS TO BE GIVEN TO HOW SIMILAR CONFLICTS CAN BE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE, WITHOUT NEGLECTING JUSTIFIED CLAIMS FROM EITHER SIDE".

4. COMMENT: THE LONGEST METROPOLITAN AREA NEWSPAPER STRIKE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC DID NOT BRING THE STRIKERS FULL SATISFACTION SINCE THEIR MAIN DEMAND, THE EXCLUSION OF THE EMPLOYER'S "VOLUNTARY" PAYMENTS FROM NEGOTIATED AWARDS WAS NOT ATTAINED. NEVERTHELESS THEY WON THE CONCESSION THAT ALL DECISIONS CONCERNING SUCH "VOLUNTARY" PAYMENTS IN THE FUTURE WILL NOT BE MADE UNILATERALLY BY MANAGEMENT BUT WILL BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND THE WORKS COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO LOCAL OPINION, THE LAW WAS ON MEYER'S SIDE, BUT HE HAS BEEN REPROACHED WIDELY FOR HAVING RECKLESSLY ABUSED HIS MONOPOLY POSITION IN THE BREMEN NEWSPAPER MARKET. SCHIFFMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWSPAPERS, STRIKE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: BREMEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770620/aaaaarlz.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 77 BREMEN 260
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2039556
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREMEN NEWSPAPER STRIKE ENDS
TAGS: ELAB, GE
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Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c654977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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